

TRANSGRESSICA: A MANIFESTO

BY JESSICA YATROFSKY

ART

1. Art should challenge societal values.
2. Art should provoke thought.
3. Artists should think and behave freely and limitlessly.
4. Artists are not required to listen to or follow advice from anyone to succeed in their practice.
5. Art should be personal and original. There is nothing worse than an artist who follows in the footsteps of another artist.
6. Works of art are free to interpretation.
7. A specific medium, like photography or painting, cannot convey one specific idea.
8. Photography is a tool, not a solution.
9. Self-consciousness is the devil.

MEN

1. The theory of the male gaze implies that the female gaze lacks the same power and is therefore less significant: "men look at women, women look at themselves." In fact, men look at women and women look back at them. Everyone looks at himself or herself.
2. The theory of the male gaze is an archaic and unimportant one.
3. There needs to be a dialogue about male sexuality.
4. The male nude is intrinsically interesting. Our cultural attitude toward this underrepresented figure is archaic.
5. Heterosexual men have no representation of their sexuality in society due to censorship and oppression from a puritanical heterosexual power structure.

6. Ignorance and shame has created a fear of male sexuality. Liberating the heterosexual male would cause true equality between genders.

7. The depiction of male sexuality elicits a strong response simply because our societal understanding of it is inadequate.

8. By making the phallus a visible part of the cultural landscape and confronting it, we confront our socially constructed mores and puritanical influences.

FEMINISIM

1. The feminist movement has been damaged by the conservative right. Feminism remains relevant.

2. Texts written by men should be read with the understanding that they represent a male point of view.

3. Texts written by women in prior eras should be read with the understanding that they represent different points of view from different cultural situations.

4. Men and women are not equal. Behaving like we are equal will not make us equal because structural inequality is beyond the scope of individual behavior.

5. Women should accept that they are not equal to men, that they live in a man's world, and must work within the system to get ahead instead of fighting it.

SEX

1. Sex is intrinsically interesting and relevant, especially when used in art.

2. Any form of sex work, including prostitution, phone sex, pornography, fetish work, escort services, and nude modeling are all legitimate professions for any woman or man. Any aversion to these professions by the public should be ignored, as they are opinions of a sexually repressed, male-centric society.

OBJECTIFICATION

1. "Objectification" is a beautiful word that has been unfairly soiled by the feminist movement.

3. Being an object of desire is an honor that should be aspired to, not fought, because everyone desires to be desired.

DESIRE

1. Desire is at the heart of everything. Everyone operates on the pleasure principle.

2. Desire should always be a crucial part of making art.